

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY C:JKELLY

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USMISSION NATO

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

S E C R E T STATE 047239

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM; UR; US

SUBJ: SALT-UK QUERY ON NON-TRANSFER AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION

1. UK MINISTER MORETON CALLED ON COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FEBRUARY 26. MORETON SAID LONDON HAD ASKED HIM TO SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION AND NON-TRANSFER AT JANUARY 23 NAC BRIEFING IN BRUSSELS. MORETON ASKED FOR REASSURANCE THAT THERE WAS AS YET NO UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIETS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. THE COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT OBVIOUSLY NON-TRANSFER AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION ARE NOT IDENTICAL ISSUES. THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS AT NAC INCLUDED REFERENCE TO PROVISION IN ABM TREATY WHICH WE DO NOT CONSIDER A PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE AGREEMENTS.

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IT IS OUR ASSUMPTION THAT ULTIMATELY WE MAY BE FORCED TO ACCEPT SOME GENERAL NON-CIRCUMVENTION LANGUAGE IN THE NEW SALT AGREEMENT. THE SOVIETS HAVE HAD ON THE TABLE IN GENEVA SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ON BOTH NON-CIRCUMVENTION AND NON-TRANSFER. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THE POSITION THAT WE WILL NOT ADDRESS THESE SUBJECTS UNTIL THE SCOPE OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT IS IN SIGHT AND THE SYSTEMS TO BE LIMITED ARE DELINEATED. THE COUNSELOR CONTINUED THAT THE U.S. HAS CONSIDERED THIS QUESTION BUT HAS NOT YET FORMULATED ANY LANGUAGE AS THE TIME IS NOT YET RIPE. WE ARE CONSCIOUS THAT THE UK IN PARTICULAR AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES TO A LESSER EXTENT HAVE A STAKE IN THE OUTCOME. PRIOR TO TAKING UP ANY LANGUAGE WITH THE SOVIETS, WE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH OUR ALLIES. WE ARE INTENT THAT ANY LANGUAGE THAT MAY BE WORKED OUT WILL NOT AFFECT ONGOING ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND WILL BE SENSITIVE TO THE IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE OPTIONS.

3. MORETON EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THIS REAFFIRMATION OF THE U.S. POSITION AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT IT TO LONDON. KISSINGER

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